(d) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of those rendered homeless as a result of there fires, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

People trafficked across India's porous borders

2545. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people trafficked across India's porous borders during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) what steps Government has taken to prevent and combat trafficking of not only girls who are forced into prostitutions but children also who are being trafficked to work as camel jockeys, forced labour, domestic servants and for organ transplantation;

(c) whether Government has made any efforts to rescue and repatriation of victims; and

(d) if so, the number thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (d) Such information is not being maintained centrally.

(b) and (c) The Union Government is taking several measures, in concert with the State Government for prevention and control of the crime of trafficking as well as measures for rehabilitation of victims. However, since 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects, the State Governments are primarily responsible for preventing and combating the crime of human trafficking. The various steps being taken by the Union Government are:—

(i) A Central Advisory Committee (CAC) on implementation of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITP) is functioning at Central level in the Ministry of Women and Child Development, which has representatives from States as well as Central Organizations and NGOs etc. The CAC holds quarterly meetings, IT(P) Act is in the process of being amended to make it more strigent against traffickers.

(ii) The Ministry of Home Affairs has set up a Nodal Cell to coordinate, matters relating to trafficking in human beings between the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and other related Ministries etc. and organize co-ordination meetings to review and sensitize Police Officers of the States/Union Territories on the subject.

(iii) The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has prepared a training manual on "Human Trafficking Handbook for Investigators" for use in the Police Training Institutes.

(iv) BPR&D is organizing regional anti-trafficking workshops for sensitizing police personnel towards the safety and security of women. Several workshops have been held in various cities till date.

(v) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched on 04.12.2007 a new Scheme—UJJAWALA—a comprehensive scheme for prevention of trafficking,

rescue, rehablitation, reintegration and repatriation of victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

(vi) A Regional Task Force has been set up for implementation of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and a draft Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) has been circulated among Member States which covers the aspect of cross border trafficking, including rescue, rehabilitation and repatriation of victims.

(vii) The 'Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976' provides for abolition of the system of bonded labour and the Government has taken various steps to check bonded labour and the rehabilitation of released bonded labourers.

(viii) Commercial dealing in human organs is a punishable offence under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. The Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act are responsible and empowered to check the illegal activities of human organs trafficking. The Central Government supports the State Governments in their endeavours to enforce these provisions.

Meeting of Naxal Task Force

2546. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Naxal Task Force was held recently at Lucknow to discuss modalities of the coordinated strategy for dealing with the Naxalite problem;

(b) if so, the details of the points discussed in the meeting and outcome thereof;

(c) wehther the coordination between police and security forces of the States have been further strengthened to tackle naxalite violence; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) A meeting of the Task Force was held in Lucknow on 18-03-2008.

The Taks Force has been constituted under Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, and consists of senior officers of Intelligence agencies. State Police Forces and Central Paramilitary Forces. It deliberates upon the operational steps needed to deal with the naxalite activities and brings about coordination between authorities of different States as may be necessary. It also holds discussions and interactions with small groups of States with reference to the specific inter-State coordination requirements in different areas relating to joint police operations.

Apart from issues related to these aspects, special emphasis was laid in the meeting on the need to conduct security audit in respect of the district armouries, police stations, jails, etc., and to strengthen their physical security.